



Celebrating Impact and Excellence!

Each day, team members across Diakon go above and beyond, making a profound difference in the lives of those we serve and in the communities we touch. The Diakon Impact Awards recognize these extraordinary efforts, highlighting the dedication, innovation, and compassion that define our mission. This publication is a tribute to every nominee—a celebration of their heart for service and the lasting impact they create.



**Fayrouz
Azer, Family
Preservation**

*Nominated by Anne
House, 4/24/25*

She is such an amazing director & goes well beyond to make sure our team has everything we need. I am new to Diakon and I feel so proud to be on

her team. She leaves such a wonderful impression on others. Thank you, Fayrouz!

Joshua Barrett, Youth Services

Nominated by David Crowther, 4/28/25

Josh is so dedicated and steadfast. He is like a lighthouse in a sometimes-turbulent sea. And that not only impacts the staff around him, like myself, but, more importantly, it gives our students a familiar, strong and trustworthy presence, which is priceless for their development.

Ann Bruno*, Family Life Services

Nominated by Jessica Jackson 1/23/2025

** Ann Bruno received multiple nominations,
each contribution is listed here and on the next page.*

Ann is always willing to encourage her team and provide helpful insight to difficult cases. She shares her wealth of knowledge and is a great leader.

Nominated by Mistilynn Rhodes 2/24/25

Dr. Ann Bruno always provides me with the support I need to succeed. Ann continuously makes herself available and provides the guidance needed to help me prevail in my career. Through continuous support and guidance provided by Ann I feel more confident and comfortable in my day to day. Ann always sits with me during times of need and provides a great listening ear without judgement and this is so appreciated.

Nominated by Rebecca Wright 2/24/25

I nominate my supervisor and our clinical director, Dr. Ann Bruno. I was in private practice for many years, but Ann made me feel welcome and a member of the team. She was patient with me as I learned things, and took the time to explain things that I didn't understand. I feel that she goes above and beyond for her people, is very supportive of us and our personal lives, and genuinely wants us all to reach our full potential. I like her directness (I respond well to that) and find that she is fair but firm when she needs to be. She is also patient when she needs to be as well. I genuinely appreciate her approach, because it makes me feel like I bring something valuable. I have worked for other supervisors but find that I respond best to the type of supervision that Ann does.

continued on next page



*Thank you for joining us in honoring
these outstanding staff members.*



She makes me accountable but is also right there to support me and walk me through things. I appreciate this more than I can say. No matter what time or what the question is, she takes the time to answer me. Another thing that I really like about Ann is that she is definitely client-oriented and is ALWAYS looking out for the best interest of them. I have seen her treat them with dignity and respect and I have seen them respond to her in kind. I like that she knows that we are here to help our clients and make their lives better. I also feel appreciated, which is something that I haven't felt for a long time. For these reasons, I feel that Ann deserves the impact award.

Cheryl Dopp, Permanency Services

Nominated by Elizabeth Touchstone, 2/25/25

Cheryl is always so kind and understanding, not only with coworkers but the families she works with! She does her best to assist in any way possible and is always willing to lend a hand. She continuously puts her best foot forward and is always a pleasure to work with.



Ryan Elias, SWAN

Nominated by Melissa Geesaman, 4/11/25

Ryan has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to the success of the SWAN Portal V3 implementation. In addition to fulfilling his

daily responsibilities, he answers countless questions from colleagues to ensure they fully understand the system and have a less stressful workday. He also conducts multiple tests on the system to help eliminate bugs. His positivity, knowledge, and dedication make him an invaluable team player.

Amanda Henn, Permanency Services

Nominated by Jachyra Perez, 4/4/25

I am nominating Amada because she is always available when I need professional support. She is very patient and is willing to help even when she is still working to make things better for the team

and herself. There has not been a task that she had explained to me, and I had not enjoyed completing.

Jessica Hottenstein, Permanency Services

Nominated by Alyssa Snyder, 2/17/25

Jessica supported permanency staff through transition with the other administrative assistant role in Topton. She took on additional responsibilities and helped to train new staff. Her contributions, helpfulness, and positive attitude was so appreciated. She was also very sick on and off throughout this time and was so conscientious despite not feeling well. Jesi and her children also helped Diakon with filming of a new compliance video on MLK day after a round of bad weather she was in the office when many others didn't make it.

Arlene Lopez, Family Life Services

Nominated by Ann Bruno, 3/4/25

I received an email from the school liaison indicating Arlene goes above and beyond with the students on her caseload. She not only provides clinical intervention but assists with all areas of social determinants of health, improving their quality of life.



Stephany Masonis, Ministry Support - Finance

Nominated by Joann Shelley, 4/11/2025

Stephany is dedicated to making sure that payroll is done correctly and makes sure that everyone's time is recorded correctly.

Payroll isn't her only job, but she multi-tasks with making sure invoices are paid on time and everything runs smoothly in Accounts Payable Department as well as closing the revenues each month. She wears multiple hats and wears them well. When we were down a person when our accounts payable person left, she was keeping after all the invoices that comes through our office with recording and paying them on time as well as making sure everyone got paid correctly. Thank you, Stephany for your hard work and dedication to make sure everything is done correctly.



Tamiah Morrison, Family Preservation

Nominated by Nikkia Walto, 3/21/25

Tamiah may be newer to our Delaware County team, but it feels like she has been with us forever. From day one, she has shown an unwavering commitment to our mission, stepping in wherever needed with enthusiasm and dedication. Although hired specifically for truancy, Tamiah has eagerly expanded her role, now assisting with family preservation and reunification services. Her impact is undeniable—Tamiah's dedication is driving significant progress in the cases she carries, directly improving the lives of the families we serve. Her willingness to learn, adapt, and support our team exemplifies what it means to go above and beyond. Beyond her professional contributions, Tamiah's energetic spirit and positive attitude bring joy and motivation to our entire team. We are incredibly grateful for Tamiah's hard work and heart for this work. She is truly deserving of this recognition.

Stephanie Reed, Permanency Services

Nominated by Jennifer Roe, 3/7/25

** Stephanie Reed received multiple nominations, each contribution is listed here.*

As a supervisor in the adoption and foster care department, Stephanie is extremely responsive to her staff. She makes sure to answer questions, respond to emails, and provide general support in a very timely manner. Consequently, her staff knows that she is available to them. She is also always willing to help others, even when it does not fall within her job description. Stephanie has such a positive impact on Diakon, and her dedication is second to none.

Nominated by Kristina Kulp, 4/8/25

Stephanie Reed is a supervisor that goes ABOVE AND BEYOND to assist her staff in making their job seamless. She is available at all hours of the day/night to answer any questions or concerns and never appears bothered at doing so, even when she's out of the office! She is the epitome of a social worker with characteristics of being kind, caring, and willing to help who/when she can. I am so grateful for everything she does, even when some tasks are not in her job "roll."

Codi Rittenhouse, Family Life Services

Nominated by Chriss McMahon, 2/10/25

Codi Rittenhouse is a unique asset to FBMHS. She is always willing to help, has the most creative ideas that improve our work, Codi creates documents and has information that improves productivity and quality of work. Codi is a gentle and inspiring soul in our small but growing office, and she does all this while caring for her three beautiful and energetic young children and her husband who is equally generous- maybe he got it from her? Did I mention she loves her job and her family and is a great inspiration for all of us.

Dianne Rupp, Family Life Services

Nominated by Anonymous, 2/26/25

Dianne has been doing Family Based work for over 24 years. Dianne is a wealth of knowledge for session preparation, EFST procedures, and resources. Dianne thinks outside of the box when working with families, playing basketball, talking football stats, whatever Dianne can do to connect with a client, she does. She encourages all of our teams to think outside of the box. She has been able to connect with families that were difficult for other teams, using the family strengths to make that connection. Dianne looks deeper at how to help families, providing support in many aspects of their lives, showing the families they are able to succeed and use their voices. Dianne may seem to have a rough exterior to anyone that has not seen her in action, however to watch her with families, and kids you get to see a complete different side of Dianne. The side that allows Dianne to connect with families and do the amazing job she does with all of them. Dianne pushes her partners to be the best they can be, she sees in them, what they cannot see in themselves yet.

Dominique Schell, Family Life Services

Nominated by Monika Stasko, 2/25/25

Dominique demonstrates several strengths such as authenticity, enthusiasm, and presents with a strong sense of empathy towards others. With these strengths, Dominique has brightened the work environment through optimism, motivated others to work as a team, and provided clients with services to the best of her abilities. She also has strong ability to advocate for those around her. Dominique is truly appreciated by many.



Congratulations to all Impact Award recipients.

Elizabeth Touchstone, Permanency Services

Nominated by Elizabeth Christman-Drey, 3/7/25

Liz goes above and beyond for her families. She helps out everyone she can in her department.

Nikkia Walton, Family Preservation

Nominated by Patricia Murphy, 2/26/25

Nikkia Walton is nominated for the Diakon Impact Award for her significant contributions to the Delco community. She effectively leads programs that help improve lives and inspire others while actively engaging community members to foster collaboration. Programs led by Nikkia address immediate challenges and promote long-term sustainability. She strongly advocates for marginalized groups and ensures their voices are heard. Furthermore, she has gone above and beyond to show new employees the Diakon way, providing support whenever necessary. Her passion for her work is evident in her unwavering dedication to the success of the programs she runs, resulting in tangible improvements in health and overall community well-being. These reasons highlight why Nikkia Walton is a deserving candidate for this prestigious award.



*Celebrate the incredible
contributions of our team.*

Submit your nomination today!



Lisa Webster, Ministry Support - Finance

*Nominated by Joann
Shelley, 2/21/25*

Lisa amazes me how she keeps up with all the happenings within the company. She spends countless

hours working on keep all the detailed part of our accounting to make sure it is accurately recorded in our financial records. She receives a mass amount of emails and questions daily, but she seems always have a smile on her face and time to answer the questions that the finance team has for her and others within the organization. She is an amazing Diakon employee who shows exemplary service to all the lives she touches.



Marianne Zellner, Permanency Services

*Nominated by
April Bartholomew,
4/30/25*

Marianne goes above and beyond in every way possible. She is always willing to step in and help, offering

to do little extras that make others feel appreciated, respected, and seen. She is available to help answer questions, train new staff, take on new challenges, and offer wonderful customer service to our families. Topton's recruitment team appreciates everything Marianne does.